

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-11, 14 and 32-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 12-13 and 15-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11 and 14 are amended and claims 32-34 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments or the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 2-4, 6 and 13-14 define allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action objects to the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that a rear edge of the top surface having a reduced width is shown in at least Figures 2a-2b. For example, a side of the rim around display modules 31, 34 adjacent to hinge unit 35 is narrower. See at least paragraph 32 of the present specification.

Further, "a hinge mechanism extends through corresponding removed portions of facing adjacent sides of the units" as recited in claim 9 can read upon first and second hinge slots 51, 52, for example, as shown in Figures 2a and 3b. See at least paragraph 64 of the present specification. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 3, 9-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments obviate the grounds for the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 9-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

C. The Office Action rejects claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,900,848 to Haneda et al. (hereafter "Haneda"). The Office Action further rejects claim 10 under

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35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Haneda. Finally, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,532,147 to Christ, Jr. (hereafter "Christ"), U.S. Patent No. 6,464,195 to Hildebrandt, Haneda and U.S. Patent No. 6,016,171 to Tsao. Because the references, individually or in combination do not disclose or suggest features recited in the pending claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7 are respectively amended to incorporate subject matter indicated to be allowable in claims 2 and 13 in the Office Action. For at least that reason, Applicant respectfully submits claims 1 and 7, respectively, define patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7 define patentable subject matter. Dependent claims 5 and 8-11 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 7, from which they depend, as well as for their additionally recited features. Claims 12 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and claims 1, 5, 10, 12 and 15 under U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

D. Claims 32-34 are newly added by this Amendment and believed to be in condition for allowance. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 33 is directed to subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 6 and claim 34 is directed to the subject matter indicated to be allowable in claim 13.

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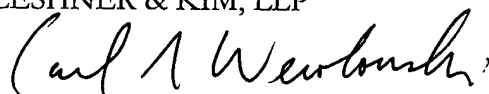
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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